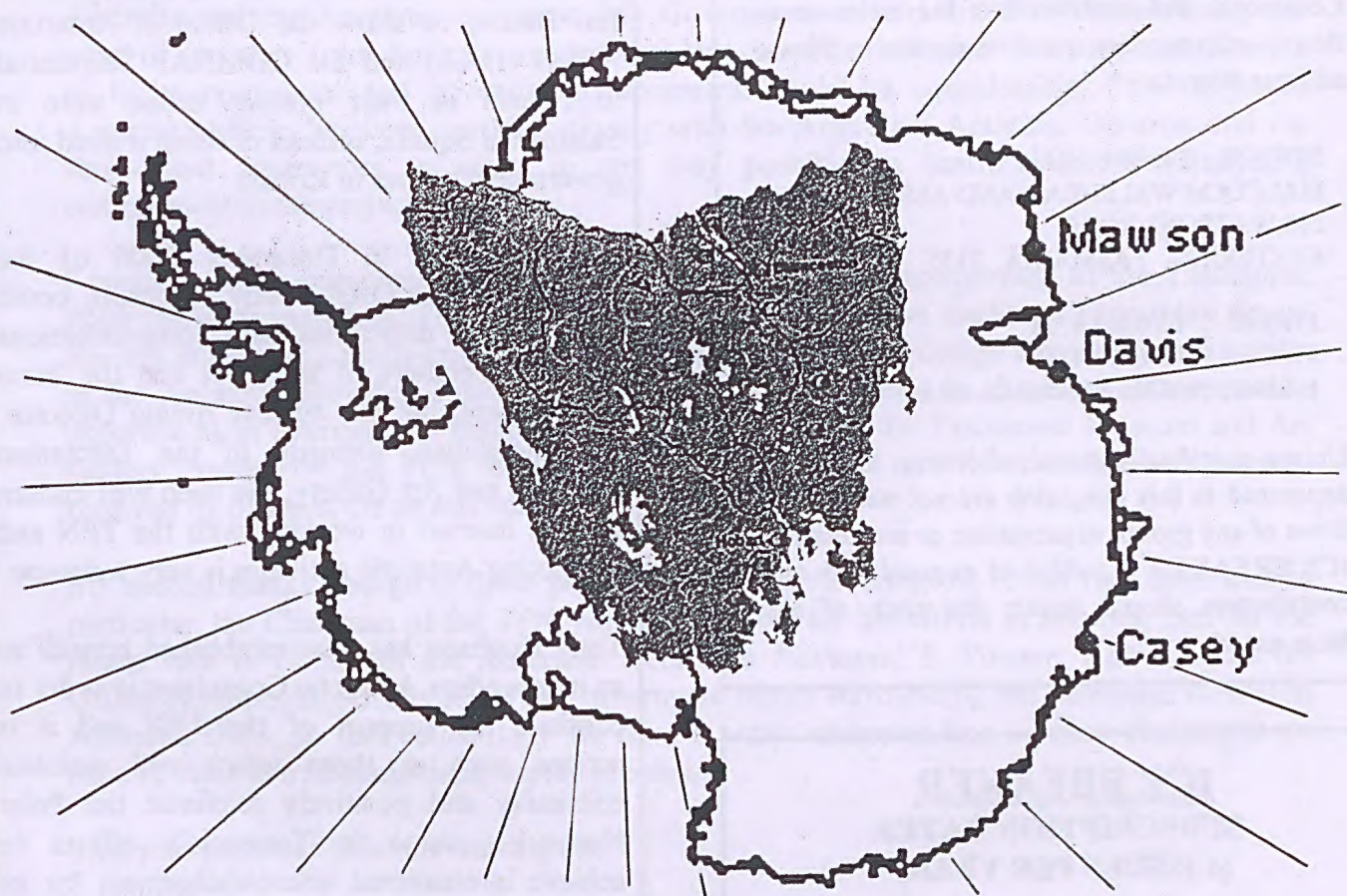


ICE BREAKER

No.14

March 2001



**Tasmania's Growing Impact
on
Antarctic Activities**

ICE BREAKER

ICE BREAKER is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

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ICE BREAKER SUBSCRIPTION RATES (4 ISSUES PER YEAR)

**AUSTRALIA-WIDE INCLUDING
POSTAGE & GST
\$A 22-00**

**ALL OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING
AIRMAIL POSTAGE
\$US 20-00**

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EDITORIAL

How encouraging to see clear evidence that the Tasmanian Polar Network is receiving more attention from the public. The employment of a media officer is now ensuring TPN members' achievements do not go unrecognised, as shown in the announcement that Tasmanian businesses have won the contract to design a new Russian base in Antarctica.

Equally encouraging is the decision of the Premier and Minister for Antarctic Affairs, Mr Jim Bacon, to allow the Office of Antarctic Affairs (OAA) and the COMNAP Secretariat to remain in their present office suite in Salamanca Square, instead of being moved into government offices in Hobart.

The retirement in December 2000 of the Director of the OAA, Tony Hughson, could have created difficulties with communications between members of the TPN and the State Government, but the current Acting Director, Bill Bleathman, formerly of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, has been well chosen and his interest in working with the TPN and promoting Antarctic activities is very welcome.

Tony Hughson has now established himself as an independent Antarctic Consultant in order to continue his support of the TPN and it is actions such as these which will maintain continuity and positively reinforce the Polar Network's value in Tasmania's efforts to achieve international acknowledgement for its status as Australia's Antarctic Capital.

**ICE
BREAKER** MAGAZINE

FROM THE PREMIER'S DESK

My Government is committed to the continued promotion of Tasmania as a key Antarctic gateway. The significance of this gateway to the local business community was highlighted very clearly on 28 December 2000 by the presence in our port of Antarctic ships from five different countries.

There are some significant changes and opportunities before us this year. The first change has been the retirement of the Director of the Office of Antarctic Affairs, Mr Tony Hughson. Tony provided valuable direction and assistance to a wide range of Antarctic-related industries during his time as the Director. His total commitment to things Antarctic was of the highest order, and I take this opportunity to wish him a long and happy retirement with his wife Christine.

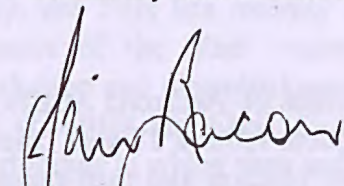
A major opportunity for the State in 2001 is the progression of a possible airlink between Australia and the Antarctic continent. My Government is committed to Hobart being the point of departure from Australia and believes that the potential benefits to our State, in terms of both commercial and scientific advancement, could be considerable. The Office of Antarctic Affairs has been working closely with the Australian Antarctic Division and the short-listed contractors to assist in any way possible to reaffirm the Government's commitment to the project.

I continue to be impressed with the diversity of skills and commitment of the Tasmanian Polar Network members. The recent announcement in the news media of Tasmanian firms' success in signing a multi-million dollar project with Russia to design a new research station in the Antarctic provides Tasmania with a further opportunity to showcase this specialist expertise to an international market. The recent reception at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, hosted by the TPN for the *Nathaniel B. Palmer* and *L'Astrolabe*, was warmly received by officers, crews and scientists of both ships.

My special thanks also go to those people involved in resolving the recent fuel issue and, in particular, the Chairman of the TPN, Mr Bill Lawson, for his efforts in securing fuel for the return visit to Hobart of the American icebreaker *Nathaniel B. Palmer*. I have asked the Office of Antarctic Affairs to further investigate issues surrounding the provision of fuel to Antarctic ships, so that collectively we have a better understanding of what challenges we need to meet to overcome these supply problems.

This year promises to be an exciting one.

I extend my best wishes for 2001 to all readers of Ice Breaker.



Jim Bacon MHA

Premier

Minister for State Development

A MESSAGE FOR ICE BREAKER READERS

Last year after a visit to Albany, Western Australia I provided a report which stated that we should not be complacent about their push to secure the airlink to Antarctica.

I still hold that view which is politically driven as I accept from a bureaucratic level there is a strong commitment to Hobart being the airlink base. I know from discussions with the Antarctic Division senior management that Hobart is the preferred departure port for a variety of logistical reasons.

However, notwithstanding the strong logistical reasons we are in an election year and every electorate in Australia becomes crucial.

Obviously, the recent Western Australian election result will have both major parties undertaking a major policy development strategy which Albany would be well aware of.

The Albany Council senior management left me with no doubt that they would be heading to Canberra and lobbying both major political parties advocating the benefits Albany can offer. The thrust of their lobbying is that Tasmania has the Antarctic Division, CSIRO, CRC and two international Antarctic committees and surely that is enough. The Antarctic program belongs to Australia and Albany deserves a slice of the action.

I believe it is important that our Chairman and Executive maintain the pressure for Hobart in the lead up to a decision being reached.

I know that I may be accused of overreacting but I firmly believe it is better to be "safe than sorry". I will use all my political influence to advocate Hobart as Australia's Antarctic airlink departure point. I am certain this stand will have bipartisan support.

Peter Hodgman
Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs

POLITICAL MOVE

Peter Hodgman, Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs and initiator of the Office of Antarctic Affairs, was recently pre-selected to stand as a Liberal candidate at the next federal election. After a 27 year career in the State Government, Peter will now stay in state politics until the federal election and then resign his state seat. He will not recontest this position if not elected. However, it is welcome news that, if possible, Peter will retain his involvement in the Tasmanian Polar Network by joining as an individual member.

Tasmanian Polar Network Chairman's Report, February 2001.

The past Quarter has been a busy one for many TPN members and the Port of Hobart. In December we had the distinction of having 5 Antarctic bound vessels in port at the same time - a fact which the Mercury pointed out quite well.

I note that the TPN's engagement of Media Consultant, Trevor Sutton, is proving to be very worthwhile in raising local awareness of Antarctica and Hobart's role in Antarctic related trade. I think that the high level of media focus on this is directly attributable to Trevor and believe this has been a good initiative by the TPN.

This quarter has seen Bill Bleathman, acting in Tony Hughson's position, rapidly ascending the OAA/TPN learning curve and putting his own personal stamp on the role and position. I have appreciated Bill's support and ideas and acknowledge his work - thanks Bill.

One of the issues to 'hit the press' in the last quarter was that relating to Hobart's apparent inability to refuel the Nathaniel B Palmer on it's planned return to Hobart at the end of January. Several members of the TPN were able to combine their commercial networks with the State Government to overcome this challenge and turn what could have been a very bad message to the international Antarctic community into a very positive one. This was an excellent example of the TPN in action in it's key role of promoting Hobart and performing to meet the promotional promises.

It was good to be able to host a Reception for the Palmer's crew on this occasion. The Reception was also able to formally recognise the long-standing Hobart presence and support of the L'Astrolabe.

Both ships and their companies were awarded a TPN Huon Pine Plaque in recognition of the occasion. Another recent event of note was the award of the Design and Project Management of the new Russian Base at Progress to Sayers Buck by the Russian Antarctic Expedition. I am delighted that Jack Sayers has sought assistance in this from Sinclair Knight Merz and look forward doing our part to making this an international showpiece of what we can do in Tasmania.

The Hobart Antarctic Airlink continues to develop with three of the pre-registered Bidders travelling south to inspect the runway sites. Unfortunately a helicopter accident and heavy ice limited these opportunities. We need to ensure that Hobart remains the base for the Airlink, particularly given Albany/WA's continued efforts to win it. Bill Bleathman and the State Government have recognised this threat and acted swiftly and appropriately to offset it.

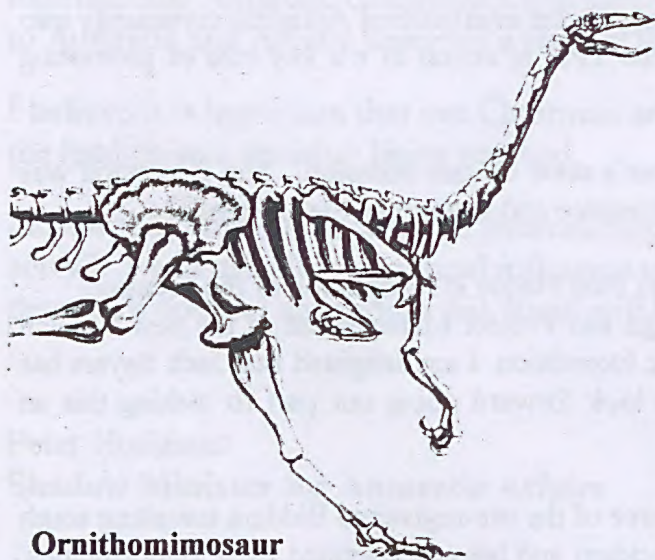
Finally, the TPN has recently commenced a new initiative to determine the future Antarctic Plans and Programs of the other countries for whom Hobart is geographically preferential as their port of embarkation and disembarkation. This being done to allow TPN Members to be able to understand what these countries are likely to need in terms of goods and services in order to be able to anticipate opportunities in which they and Tasmania may be able to offer assistance. It is expected that a Report will be produced by the end of March detailing the findings and distributed to TPN Members.

Bill Lawson. Chairperson, TPN. 21/2/01.

POLAR NEWS

POLAR DINOSAURS

On display at the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (TMAG) until March 11, 2001, is 'Dinosaurs of Darkness', an exhibition of real and cast artefacts from dinosaurs which lived in the north and south polar areas. Articulated skeletons, dinosaur bones and fossils from the Jurassic through to the late Cretaceous period are included in the display, with samples from Alaska, northern Canada and Russia as well as from south east Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica. Accompanying the display are information panels and leaflets, and a dinosaur website was developed by Mt Carmel College students in conjunction with The Mercury newspaper at: www.themercury.com.au/nie/current.htm



Ornithomimosaur

VIDEO SUCCESS

Congratulations to Professor Pat Quilty for his excellent narration in ABCTV's 'South of No North' program. This video used archival footage, photographs, paintings and reenactments to trace Hobart's historical links with Antarctic exploration and the port's continuing association with expeditions today. Written and researched by TPN member Annie Rushton, the program also included interviews with the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green, and local historians.

WAKE UP, ANTARCTIC INNOVATORS!

George Lewin, inventor of the Triton Workbench, has set up the Triton Foundation, a non-profit organisation with \$3 million available to help inventors and small to medium businesses commercialise their innovations. With Tasmania having such a notable track record of inventions already, and with TPN members often willing to adapt products to suit Antarctic requirements, businesses with polar innovations should be interested in submitting their ideas, which will be first shown on a TV program now being developed. A range of information about the Triton Foundation and submission requirements can be found at: www.triton-foundation.org

NEW ISO ADDRESS

On February 5, 2001, the Industrial Supplies Office Tasmania (ISOTas) moved from the Tasmanian Technopark to the Department of State Development offices at 3 Terry Street, Glenorchy, 7010. Telephone 6233 5550, Fax 6272 7845. ISOTas is part of a national network providing businesses and governments with advice on products, components and services available in Australia. Information about the Tasmanian Polar Network was sent to ISOTas several years ago, but updates by individual business are necessary.

SOUTHERN FLIGHTS

QANTAS' new non-stop Regular Public Transport (RTP) air service between Sydney (Aust) and Johannesburg (S. Africa) commenced on 15 January 2001. Designed to provide a faster service between the two cities, overflights of the sub-Antarctic and coastal areas of the continent eliminate stopovers in Perth, WA, but are dependent on favourable weather forecasts. At present, there are four return flights a week, with the westbound flights taking 13 hours and the eastbound, 11 hours.

CORRECTION

A Polar News item in Issue 13 incorrectly stated that the Slovenian who had skied down Mt Everest was the same man attempting to ski across Antarctica using parasails. The latter has since abandoned his attempt.

TASMANIANS ACHIEVING ANTARCTIC BUSINESS

The Russian Antarctic Program in St Petersburg has contracted a Hobart company to design a new base at Larsemann Hills in East Antarctica. Specialists in Antarctic logistics and projects, Sayers Buck Pty Ltd will work on the design with engineering consultant Sinclair Knight Merz, both members of the Tasmanian Polar Network. The purpose of the base is to centralise Russian polar research in East Antarctica and to provide an area for the development of an airstrip to support intercontinental flights. The choice of Australian companies to design and hopefully construct this new base will ensure compliance with Madrid Protocol regulations regarding environmental protection in Antarctica, as well as drawing attention to Tasmania's Antarctic business capabilities.

The following information was kindly supplied to ICE BREAKER by the Director of Sayers Buck, Mr Jack Sayers:

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW PROGRESS STATION

The station is to accommodate 25 persons in a comfortable living environment. The buildings and facilities are designed to be cost effective in terms of design, materials and construction, durable and requiring low maintenance effort, energy efficient and complying with the requirements of the Protocol on Environment Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. Among the features are included a generous area for social activities and a sauna.

Fresh water is to be drawn from a nearby lake and purified to comply with the Australian NHMRC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Sewage and other wastewater will be treated using state-of-the art micro-filtration technology. Waste heat from power generation will be recovered and used for building air-conditioning the living and Operations Quarters. A Workshop will provide maintenance facilities for tracked vehicles that will be used on the Progress to Vostok re-supply traverses.

POTENTIAL HOBART TO ANTARCTICA AIRLINK COMPANIES CHOSEN

Representatives of three of the six companies short-listed for providing air link services to Antarctica made a familiarisation visit to Casey Base in December last year. These companies were National Jet Systems of Adelaide, South Australia; Polar Logistics of UK and Skytraders from Sydney, NSW. The other three were Sinclair Knight Merz of Hobart, Tasmania; Ken Borek Air of Canada and Jet Air Cargo of Brisbane, Queensland.

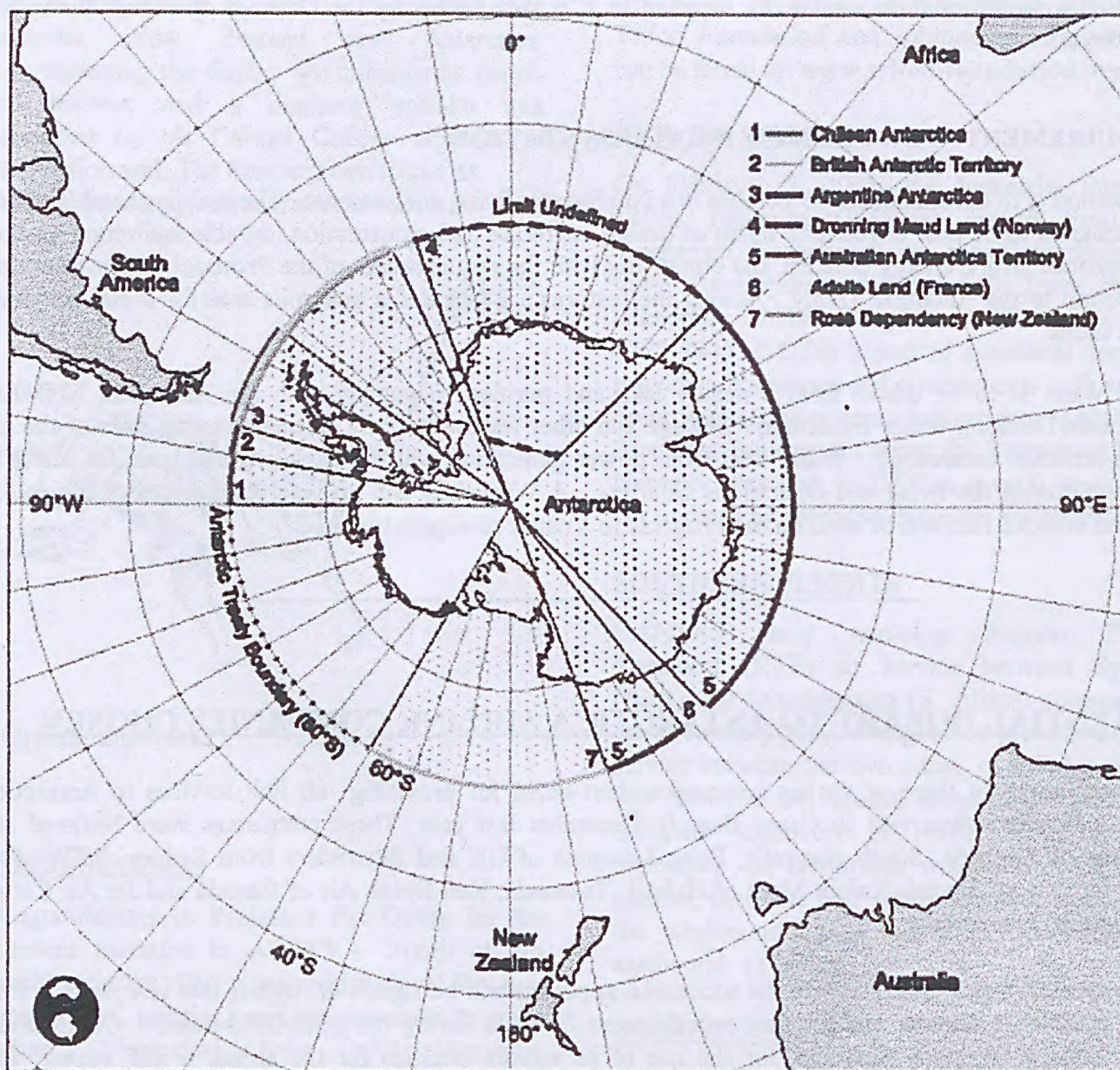
It is expected that a contract with the successful applicant will be signed in August this year, with a trial flight made next summer and the first expeditioners flown in during the 2002-2003 season. Competition from Albany, Western Australia, for the use of its airport facilities for the airlink is still strong, and potential operators have been contacted by representatives from this city. However, Hobart has countered this alternative airport promotion by providing all potential airlink companies with detailed information about Hobart's extensive capabilities as well as meteorological data about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. This information also supports Hobart's chances, rather than Albany's, of being the federal government's choice of airport.

ANTARCTIC CONTINENTAL SHELF EXTENSION CLAIM

Work on surveying the extended continental shelf off Antarctica commenced in December last year and will continue next summer. The contractors are Fugro Geoteam AG of Norway. Although territorial claims in Antarctica have been suspended, Australia intends to claim this continental shelf area in order to maintain its rights to seabed resources according to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

This season, 8000 kms of seismic, bathymetric, gravity and magnetic data has been collected by the vessel GEO ARCTIC, and 9,500 kms by POLAR DUKE. Next season, GEO ARCTIC will cover a further 8000 kms. The surveys are carried out in water 500-5000 metres deep, with special attention given to the presence of whales whenever the seismic shots were taken.

(Thanks to 'The Antarctic' for this information)



Antarctica

Map courtesy of the Australian Antarctic Data Centre

Claim and Treaty Boundaries

POLAR NEWS

ICE PROBLEM SOLVED

The 19m SPIRIT OF SYDNEY, an Australian yacht with 10 people on board, was damaged in polar ice near the French Antarctic Base Dumont D'Urville in January. A satellite distress beacon was activated but turned off when the ship broke free of the ice and reached open water, where it later rendezvoused with L'ASTROLABE. The rudder was repaired and leaks fixed and although the engine was not working, the yacht was sailed back to Hobart and arrived on February 19, 2001.

PENGUIN POWER

- Research at the University of California shows that, although penguins use up more calories than other animals when walking because of their short legs, their waddling gait is actually an effective method of storing energy with minimal loss.
- Five weeks of filming penguin behaviour when helicopters flew over them at various heights and speeds, has not shown any King Penguins falling over backwards while watching the overflights, as previously observed. British Antarctic Survey scientists witnessed only the nesting penguins becoming quieter, and adolescent birds walking away from the noise, so flights using fixed-wing aircraft will be made to further test the theory.
- One of the research projects undertaken on AURORA AUSTRALIS this season involved penguins fitted with satellite-tracking transmitters designed to record information about the quantities of krill in the penguins' feeding grounds. The krill data is vital for the management of commercial krill fishing and will be collected in conjunction with Adelie Penguin research on Bechervaise Island near Mawson Station.

GONDWANA TREE SPECIES FOUND

Twenty mature trees of the Eidothea genus, one of the prehistoric rainforest trees which once covered the supercontinent of Gondwana, have been found in northern NSW near Byron Bay. Newly named 'Nightcap Oak' may date back 70 million years, when Australia, Africa, South

America, Antarctica and New Zealand were conjoined. The oak produces nuts and flowers and can grow up to 40 metres tall with a diameter of 75 cms.

CREVASSE RESCUE

After several attempts which had to be abandoned due to bad weather, Chilean and Argentinean rescue teams eventually reached an Australian who was swept down a crevasse by an avalanche on the Antarctic Peninsula. Peter Bland spent 2 days trapped in ice until being rescued and taken to a Chilean base where he was treated for serious injuries. Weather conditions again hampered his transport to the South American mainland, but he was later transferred to Punta Arenas where his wife and daughter waited.

Peter and his companion Jay Watson were attempting to be the first to cross the Peninsula from east to west when the accident occurred. Once Peter was rescued, Jay continued the trek to claim the Antarctic crossing record.

POLAR PROPERTY TRANSFER

Real Estate agents CB Richard Ellis have advertised a tender for the Commonwealth Government's 10.55 hectare property now leased by the Australian Antarctic Division in Kingston, Tasmania. There have been at least 28 expressions of interest in the property and final tenders close in early May, with the successful tenderer expected to be announced in late May 2001. The AAD has a long-term lease which will be transferred from the Government to the new owner.

TASMANIAN PHOTO AWARD

Graham Robertson from the Australian Antarctic Division, has won an award for his photograph of albatrosses, which was included in the 1999 BG Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition in the Bond Store at the TMAG earlier this year.

NOT FORGOTTEN

Included in the model boat display at this year's Wooden Boat Festival was a detailed scale model of NELLA DAN, the Antarctic Division's resupply vessel prior to AURORA AUSTRALIS.

PORT ACTIVITIES & ANTARCTIC FIRSTS

Antarctic-bound ships have been much in evidence in Hobart this summer, starting in early December with the US Coast Guard POLAR SEA which spent 5 days in port before beginning a six month voyage south into pack ice. During mid-December the SIR HUBERT WILKINS, operated by Don and Margie McIntyre's Ocean Frontiers company, departed for a 34-day voyage to Antarctica. On board was Dr Charles Barton, a geoscientist with the Australian Geological Survey Organisation in Canberra, who successfully plotted the position of the South Magnetic Pole at 64° S, 138 °E in the Southern Ocean on December 22, 2000. A second voyage, to the Ross Sea area, departed in early February. The ship intends to rendezvous with cross-continent skiers Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen and on board is Ms Arnesen's husband Einar Glestad from Norway

December 28 saw 5 Antarctic ships in port - AURORA AUSTRALIS (Aust.) and POLAR BIRD (Norway), ITALICA (Italy), L'ASTROLABE (France) and KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV (Russia). Some were preparing for their first voyage south and others were resupplying for further voyages to the continent.

AURORA AUSTRALIS had returned shortly after POLAR BIRD, which had been trapped in ice for 3 weeks when attempting to reach Casey Base. In January 2001, POLAR BIRD was ice bound again while on her way to Casey, but broke free after 2 weeks. On board this voyage were air link operators on a familiarisation visit to Casey's blue ice runway. Already delayed by being ice bound, this group were also unable to visit the Bunger Hills area as planned because one of the helicopters was damaged when it rolled on takeoff earlier in the voyage.

KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV's voyage south was notable for its record-breaking achievement of sailing the furthest south, to Latitude 78°37'S at Longitude 162°02'E in the Bay of Whales. This position was made possible because of the calving of recent massive icebergs, the largest being B15A, which took the ship 7 hours to travel past.

The US icebreaker NATHANIEL B PALMER paid 2 visits this summer, but the December visit was marred when BP was unable to supply fuel on time, causing the ship to refuel in NZ before docking in Hobart. Fortunately, the January visit was not cancelled because Shell guaranteed supply and diverted a fuel tanker to Hobart for that purpose. To acknowledge Antarctic ships regularly resupplying in Hobart, members of the Tasmanian Polar Network hosted crew and scientists from both the NATHANIEL B PALMER and L'ASTROLABE on January 25 at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's Bond Store. The Chairman of the TPN, Mr Bill Lawson presented both Captain Joseph Borkowski (USA) and Captain Yves Guedez (France) with a Huon pine plaque as a memento of their visits.



Photo courtesy of The Mercury newspaper, Hobart.



**The 'Sir Hubert Wilkins'
in Hobart.**

**Bill Lawson(TPN) presenting
Captain Borkowski (USA)
with a Huon pine plaque.**



Mawson Place, Hobart

POLAR NEWS

INCLUDING ANTARCTIC EFFECTS

'Better Buildings for Tomorrow', an international conference to be held in Brisbane, Queensland in 2002, will focus on building durability and the use of IT in construction. However, methods to slow down deterioration in historic timber buildings such as Mawson's Hut in Antarctica will also be included, with information about preservation of 500-year-old buildings in Sweden and Germany being discussed. Over 400 researchers from government departments, universities and industry will attend the conference, the ninth to be held and the first in Australia.

POLAR PHOTOS

An exhibition of 100 years of Australian Antarctic photographs is being held at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa from the end of January to mid March 2001. The main focus of the display will be photos taken by Frank Hurley during Douglas Mawson's expedition, particularly featuring the winter quarters at Cape Denison.

OZONE COVER

Chileans living in Punta Arenas are provided with daily updates on the ozone hole because the city is the only populated region on Earth directly exposed to the sun's potentially dangerous, cancer-causing ultraviolet B rays. During the period between September 1 and December 31 each year, there are several days when the ozone hole is at its largest, and residents are required to wear sombreros, extra clothes, sunglasses and sunscreen lotions for protection against sunburn.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The Australian Antarctic Division at Kingston was one of several places visited in February by 70 ambassadors, high commissioners and their spouses. The diplomats, who usually reside in Canberra (ACT), were invited to visit Tasmania by Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who led the tour. Included in the delegation were representatives from Argentina,

Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Croatia, France, Israel, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

ANTARCTIC TOURISM PROMOTION

A new group has been formed to focus on Tasmania's Antarctic tourism potential which was outlined in last year's Governor's Forum on Antarctica. Called the Antarctic Tourism Group and chaired by Tony Hughson of the Office of Antarctic Affairs, members held their first meeting in August 2000.

Current members include:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bill Bleathman | Acting Director of OAA |
| Warren Papworth | Australian Antarctic Division |
| Kathy Gatenby | Tourism Tasmania |
| Lorne Kriwoken | University of Tasmania |
| Felicity Menzies | Hobart City Council |

Other organisations with tourism interests are occasionally invited to meetings, and TPN members are welcome to contact the group if they have any relevant concerns or suggestions.

POLAR CDs AVAILABLE

- ANTARCTICA by Vangelis (1983; Polygram 815732-2). Synthesizer music from Koreyoshi Kurahara's film of the same name.
- ANTARCTICA, SUITE FOR GUITAR AND ORCHESTRA by Nigel Westlake (1992; Sony Classical SK53361). Reworked score from the IMAX film Antarctica. guitar playing from John Williams.
- ANTARCTICA: THE LAST WILDERNESS by Medwyn Goodall (1993; Mar 3812). Instrumental pieces.
- ANTARCTICA by Richie Bierach (1994; ECD 22086-2). Jazz piano solos.
- ANTARCTICA by Ian Tamblyn (1994; North Track NTCD3). New Age/folk-rock/jazz with penguin and seal sounds.
- ANTARCTICA by Douglas Quin (1998; Miramar 09006-23113-2). Natural recordings of seals, whales and penguins.

(Courtesy of Lonely Planet's 'Antarctica')

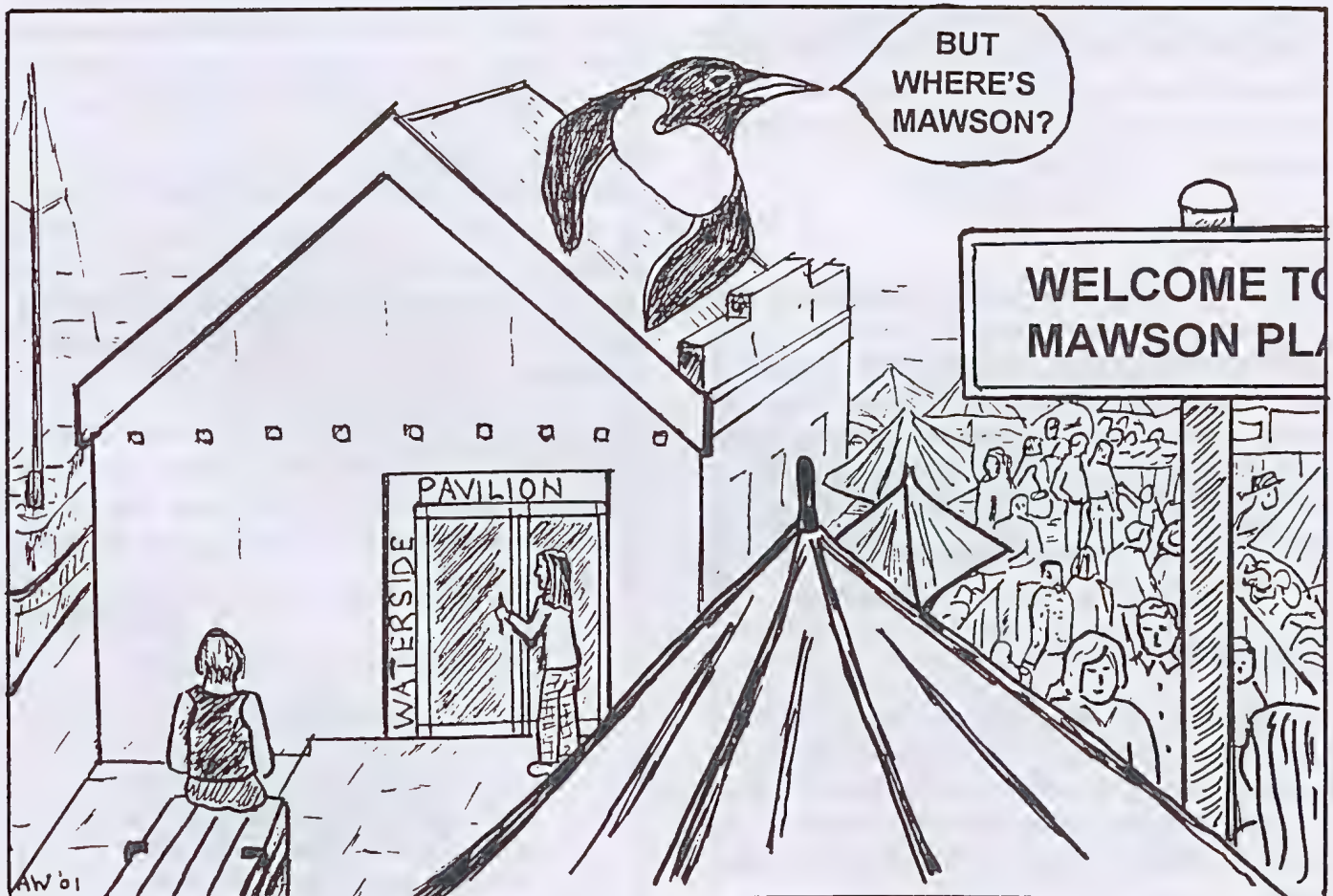
MAWSON ATTENTION

- One of the passengers on the first Antarctic voyage of the SIR HUBERT WILKINS was Hannah Mornement, a British photographer and great, great niece of Belgrave Ninnis, who disappeared into a crevasse while accompanying Douglas Mawson and Xavier Mertz on their 1911 Antarctic expedition. Ms Mornemont visited Commonwealth Bay with the AAP Mawson's Hut Foundation (MHF) group led by Rob Easter of the Australian Antarctic Division.
- The MHF group spent 2 weeks repairing the huts and clearing away rubbish from the Cape Dennison area. According to Rob Easter, parts of the roof of the 90-year-old main building are now collapsing and more ongoing maintenance is required.
- A piece of Baltic pine from Mawson's Hut is one of several artifacts marking the Centenary of Federation which were taken aboard the space

shuttle by Australian NASA astronaut Andy Thomas. Mawson's balaclava and slide rule were also taken by Dr Thomas on his flight to the International Space Station in February this year.

- Mawson Place in Hobart was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Hobart on February 23, 2001. Surrounding guests at the official opening were display boards illustrating the broad range of scientific research underway in Antarctica, as well as a set explaining the Tasmanian Polar Network's involvement in this research.

The new Waterside Pavilion built alongside Constitution Dock was completed late last year and featured a nautical-themed photographic exhibition over the Christmas period. To date, the Hobart City Council has only placed a bronze bust of Sir Douglas Mawson inside the Pavilion as a memorial of the famous Antarctic explorer, but a large bronze sculpture entitled 'Tidal Pools', by Stephen Walker, has been installed in the open space.



POLAR NEWS

POLAR WEATHER PACKAGES

Two Tasmanian Polar Network members have worked together to provide the French icebreaker L'Astrolabe with up-to-date satellite ice images and weather information. The software package was based on an idea by Antoine Guichard of Latitude Technologies and developed by Tasmania's Bureau of Meteorology. Instead of relying on a radio fax system, the ship's web page on the Bureau's server provides a more accurate overview of current conditions, which enables the ship to navigate closer to the French Antarctic base before having to send up a helicopter for extra visual information.

SOUTHERNERS GO NORTH

In late January 2001, eight Victorian Year 11 students left for an educational expedition to Greenland's Disco Island. They will be based at a research station on the island and will visit Inuit settlements to study their culture. Other anthropological and atmospheric research will be undertaken and their leader and teacher expects the expedition to stimulate students' interest in careers based on scientific research, particularly in polar areas.

BI-LINGUAL LINGERING

Wintering-over or being icebound in a ship have both provided opportunities recently for expeditioners and crews to learn a new language. English lessons were organised for the crew of Russia's KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV during their stay at Port Huon, and Norwegian lessons were one of the activities Australians participated in when POLAR BIRD remained icebound in December last year.

NEW POLAR ROUTES

In January this year, Brigitte Muir became the first Australian woman to reach the South Pole. Accompanied by 7 other expeditioners on this occasion, Brigitte is now planning to pioneer a new 1800 km long Antarctic route, starting from the edge of the continent next November.

NEWS FROM ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE

Salamanca's own Antarctic Adventure is now fully Tasmanian owned and operated. Tasmanian Development and Resources are the sole shareholders of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Centre Pty Ltd, a company formed to manage and provide future direction for the Centre. It is intended that emphasis will be placed on developing Antarctic, Southern Ocean and Science related exhibits to reinforce the strong Antarctic theme that currently exists.

Antarctic Adventure also intends hosting a number of national and international exhibitions to add variety and enjoyment for all visitors. The first of these exhibitions, titled Ocean Planet, toured by the Smithsonian Institution and the Australian National Maritime Museum, is currently showing at Antarctic Adventure until March 25.

For those in the community who have not visited Antarctic Adventure, the Centre is a "hands-on" interactive exhibition that appeals to all ages. "The Blizzard", our downhill skiing simulator, is particularly popular. For the less adventurous, there is our theatre and planetarium shows, the Cold Room, Seal Counting Game, as well as access to the frozen continent via the Internet.

Antarctic Adventure is unique in Australia, offering a real experience of the frozen continent as well as many museum style exhibits. Currently displayed are artifacts from Mawson's 1911 expedition, contemporary equipment and the flora and fauna of Macquarie Island and the Antarctic continent.

Antarctic Adventure is open seven days a week from 10.00-5.00 and admission allows unlimited access to the Centre for the entire day in 21 degree air conditioned comfort, right in the heart of Salamanca!

Larry Belbin



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**When in Hobart why not
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POLAR PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

'ANTARCTICA' by Jeff Rubin. Published by Lonely Planet. Price: \$32.97.

The second edition covers a comprehensive range of Antarctic information for the traveller. It includes a briefer section on Hobart, but does mention Antarctic Adventure and the Sub-Antarctic Plant House.

'THE ANTARCTIC DICTIONARY' by Bernadette Hince. Published by CSIRO Publishing. Price: \$39.95

With over 2000 headwords and 20,000 quotations, this book covers a very wide range of words used by Antarcticans since exploration began.

'CAPITAL PORT, A History of the Marine Board of Hobart 1858-1997' by Lindy Scripps and Audrey Hudspeth. Published by HPC. Price: \$60 Hard cover, \$40 Soft cover.

Traces the 139-year-old history of Hobart's Marine board (now Hobart Ports Corporation), from the days of whaling and sealing boats through to the present international cruise ships.

'THE RACE TO THE WHITE CONTINENT' by Alan Gurney. Published by Wiley. Price: \$39.90.

An account of 3 expeditions to the South Pole in the 1830s. The United States, France and Britain raced each other to be the first through the pack ice in the hope of discovering a new polar continent and whaling ground.

'POINTS UNKNOWN' edited by David Roberts. Published by Wiley. Price: \$39.90.

This selection of adventure and exploration stories includes Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott's final journal entry.

VIDEOS:

'SOUTH OF NO NORTH'. Price: \$88 (individuals and schools), \$110 (business and tertiary institutions).

Copies of the ABCTV program about Hobart's connections with Antarctica, screened on November 26, 2000, are now available from:

ABC Video Program Sales
GPO Box 9994, Sydney, NSW, 2001
Ph. 1300 650 587. Fax. 02 9950 3169.
E-mail: progsales@your.abc.net.au

POLAR WEB

[www.bprc.mps.ohio-state.edu/polar pointers](http://www.bprc.mps.ohio-state.edu/polar_pointers) - Lists interesting sites with Arctic and Antarctic information, arranged under nation of origin.

<http://rpssc.raytheon.com> - Raytheon Polar Services Company, which recruits about 600 people a year to work at US Antarctic Stations.

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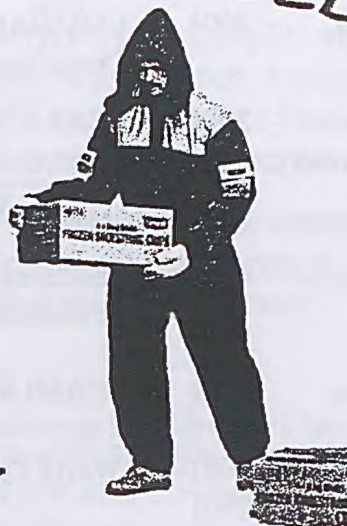
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POLAR CALENDAR

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|--|
| 13-14 | March | 2001 | Hydrographic Committee for Antarctica meeting. Cape Town, S. Africa. Contact dir2@ihb.mc |
| 16 | March | 2001 | Tasmanian Polar Network Meeting. 11.00am. Antarctic Adventure, Hobart, Tasmania. |
| ? | April-Sept | 2001 | Frank Hurley Photographic Exhibition. Galleries of State Library of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW. |
| 2 | April | 2001 | 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Australian Antarctic Division Head quarters at Kingston, Tas. |
| 28 8 | May June | 2001- 2001 | Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXIV. St Petersburg, Russia. |
| ? | June | 2001 | Volvo Ocean Race website active.(See Polar News last issue) |
| 4-8 | June | 2001 | Fourth International Symposium on Remote Sensing in Glaciology. Mary- land, USA. Contact www.spri.cam.ac.uk/igs/home.htm |
| 21 | June | 2001 | Midwinter's Day. |
| 23 | June | 2001 | 40th Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty coming into force, and 1st Ant- arctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Canberra, ACT. |
| 9-12 | July | 2001 | IAATO Annual Meeting. Washington,DC,USA. Contact iaato@iaato.org |
| 17-21 | July | 2001 | Antarctic Geodesy Symposium 2001. St Petersburg, Russia. Contact aerogeodezia@actor.ru |
| ? | August | 2001 | Contract begins for chosen Hobart/Antarctic airlink operator. |
| 19-23 | August | 2001 | International Symposium on Ice Cores & Climate. Kangerlussuag, Green- land. Contact www.spri.cam.ac.uk/igs/home.htm |
| 20-24 | August | 2001 | COMNAP XIII (inc. sub-committee on Tourism and Non-Government Operations. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. |
| 27 1 | August September | 2001- 2001 | SCAR VIII International Biology Symposium. Amsterdam, The Nether- lands. Contact alw@now.nl |
| ? | September | 2001 | Start of Volvo Ocean Race. Southampton, UK. |
| ? | September | 2001 | Australian Academy of Technology, Science and Engineering Symposium on Antarctica, Southern Ocean and Fisheries. |
| 22 | October | 2001 | CCAMLR meetings. Hobart, Tasmania. |
| 31 4 | October November | 2001- 2001 | World Tourism Convention. Hobart, Tasmania. |



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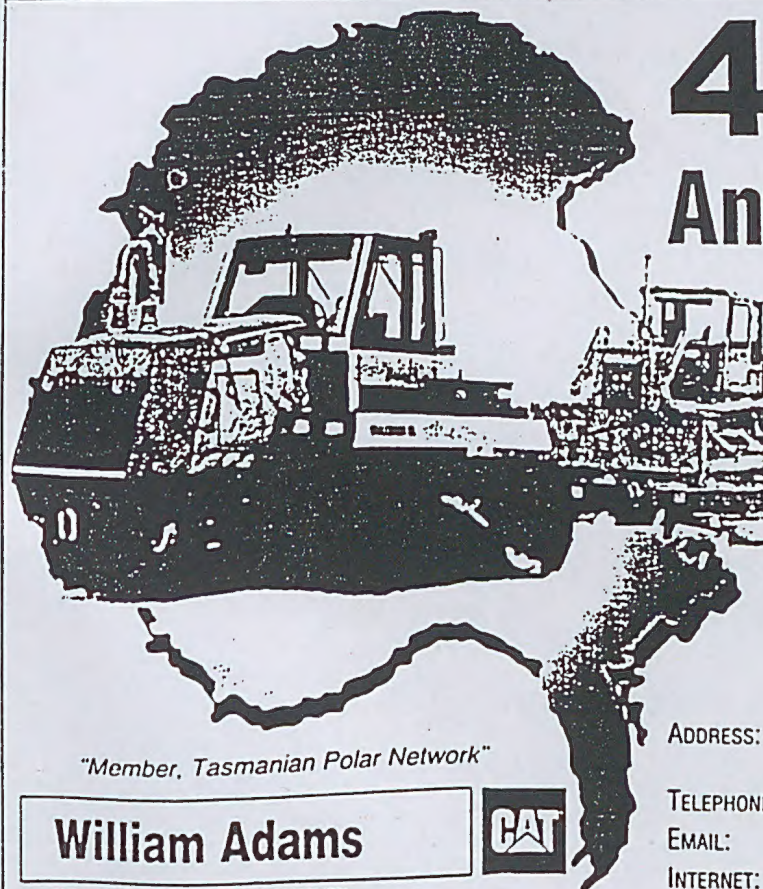
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THE BACK PAGE

ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|---|
| 2 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Mawson Base. |
| 5-6 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Zhong Shan (China). |
| 7 | March | 2001 | REGAL PRINCESS | Arrives Hobart, departs for Melbourne. |
| 7-8 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Sansom Island. |
| 8 | March | 2001 | SIR H. WILKINS | Departs Hobart for around Tas. voyage. |
| 9 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Zhong Shan (China). |
| 10-11 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Davis Base. |
| 11-14 | March | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V8 | Arrives Hobart, departs for Casey Base. |
| 12 | March | 2001 | L'ASTROLABE | Arrives Hobart from Antarctica. Lay-up. |
| 17 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | McDonald Island. |
| 17-23 | March | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Heard Island. |
| 22-24 | March | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V8 | Casey Base. |
| 24 | March | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V8 | Marine Science. |
| 30 | March | 2001- | | |
| 1 | April | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V8 | Macquarie Island. |
| 3-4 | April | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V7 | Arrives Hobart. Off hire. |
| 4-5 | April | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V8 | Arrives Hobart. |
| 11-23 | May | 2001 | FRANKLIN V4 | Departs Hobart for Wellington NZ. |
| 24 | May | 2001- | | |
| 15 | June | 2001 | FRANKLIN V5 | Ocean climate change research.(CSIRO) |

| | | | | |
|-------|----------|-------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 16 | October | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V1 | Departs Hobart. |
| 21 | October | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V1 | Macquarie Island. |
| 27 | October | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V1 | Arrives Hobart. |
| 30 | October | 2001- | | |
| 6 | December | 2001 | AURORA AUSTRALIS V2 | Departs Hobart, Marine Science. |
| 11 | November | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V3 | Departs Hobart. |
| 22-24 | November | 2001 | POLAR BIRD V3 | Casey Base. |